

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ERNIE FLETCHER**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 11, 2003*

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 10, 2003, had I been present for rollcall vote Nos. 252, 253, 254, 255, and 256, I would have voted the following way: Rollcall vote No. 252—"aye"; rollcall vote No. 253—"aye"; rollcall vote No. 254—"nay"; rollcall vote No. 255—"aye"; rollcall vote No. 256—"aye."

## THE BENEFITS OF FACILITIES-BASED COMPETITION

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 11, 2003*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, there is little doubt that true head-to-head facilities-based competition benefits consumers. This is certainly true in the cable industry, where prices in areas where there are two facilities-based cable systems competing head-to-head are 17 percent lower than in areas where there is only one cable system.

In the world of residential high-speed Internet access, facilities-based competition is coming. Right now, cable dominates the market. Cable serves about two out of every three broadband consumers. One reason cable dominates the market is because cable broadband is essentially unregulated, where as broadband provided by telephone companies, called DSL, is regulated as if it were regular telephone service.

The Federal Communications Commission is in the process of creating regulatory parity between the two competitors. I encourage the FCC to continue down this road towards regulatory parity among broadband providers. We are seeing the benefits of this deregulation already. For example, Verizon just announced a 40 percent price cut in the cost of their DSL product. Consumers will have a real choice between two distinct head-to-head competitors.

In the regular telephone world, however, the FCC decided not to stimulate head-to-head facilities-based competition. Instead, the FCC left in place rules that permit a competitor to use the existing telephone network at a substantial discount, up to 55 percent. The problem with this is that it lacks a sufficient incentive for a competing telephone company to build any facilities because it costs less to use the existing network at these below-cost prices. Regulatory pricing arbitrage does not result in true competition. The FCC needs to stop making the incumbent telephone companies subsidize long distance carriers' entry into the local markets. If the long distance carriers want to use the incumbent's network, they should do so at a reasonable price, not one that shifts money from the local telephone company to the long distance carriers. This system cannot be maintained.

The FCC should adopt rules that give incentives for long distance carriers and others to build their own infrastructure. Then, there will be true head-to-head facilities-based competi-

tion. Consumers will benefit with lower prices, better service and more choices.

In addition, there are national security and safety benefits to multiple networks. If one network is knocked out, communications can be routed over the other network.

I urge the FCC to adopt rules that ensure the existence of true, head-to-head facilities-based competition for all types of communications services, especially voice telephony and broadband.

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE RARITAN HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASEBALL TEAM

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 11, 2003*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the members of the Raritan High School Boys Baseball team from Hazlet, New Jersey in the 6th district of New Jersey. On Tuesday June 10, 2003, they completed a season of hard work and personal sacrifice with the first State Baseball Championship in school history. Two weeks prior they won their first Central New Jersey Sectional Championship in over a decade continuing their improbable underdog journey defeating Spotswood High School. The true measure of their achievement came this past Tuesday when this Cinderella story finally was granted the glass slipper. Down for much of the game, the team rallied to defeat statewide ranked Hanover Park to win the school's first ever state championship.

This occasion cannot be fully appreciated unless I recognize the graduating seniors and leaders of this gifted group of student athletes. Two of the team's coaches, T.J. O'Donnell and Tim Hildner, members of previous Raritan championship teams, returned to their alma mater to guide this team to the state championship never realized during their tenure as players. Remaining coaches, long time teachers at the school, Andrew Milewski and Robert Generelli gave this group the extra guidance that made them champions. Though the team's full potential was put into motion by the group's undisputed leaders, such as first basemen Gregory Casha, shortstop Alex Mautone, pitcher Sean Walsh, left fielder Steve Plagianakos, utility fielder Ernie Scelia, first basemen Patrick Wood, and center fielder Jared Pflug all of who which will be graduating this June, moving on to several of our state's great universities and leaving their current teammates with a title to defend. The contributions of underclassmen such as second basemen Sal Straniero, catcher Sean Hanrahan, designated hitter Ricky Russomano, center fielder Steve Bilowus, right fielder Andrew Mandeville, and third basemen Michael Nunes were the extra pieces to the puzzle that together turned a small high school on the Jersey Shore into a state powerhouse in one short season.

Today I speak to you as a proud representative of the 6th district of New Jersey due to the inspiration that these young men have contributed to the residents in Township of Hazlet. So on this day, June 11, 2003 I wish congratulations to the players, coaches, and parents of the 2003 Group II State Champions, the Raritan High School Rockets!

## RECOGNIZING MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

**HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 11, 2003*

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, on May 10, 1972 I flew my 300th mission over North Vietnam. I shot down three MIGs that day to become the first Ace of the Vietnam War. Shortly after my third kill, I was hit by enemy fire and forced to eject along with my backseat, Willie Driscoll. As we parachuted down into enemy territory, I did not know whether I was going to live, die, or possibly be taken as a prisoner of war. It was indeed the scariest moment in my life—until the day my doctor looked me in the eye and told me that I had cancer.

I am one of thousands of men who was diagnosed following a simple prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test. During my annual examination in the summer of 1998, my doctor noted a slight elevation in my PSA test. He followed up with a sonogram and an MRI, neither of which revealed the disease. It was only after a prostate biopsy that it was determined that I had cancer. Following the diagnosis, in consultation with my family, I decided to pursue surgery as my treatment option. I am fortunate—early detection saved my life. My doctor was familiar with PSA results, and I had healthcare coverage for my treatments. Early detection and treatment meant the difference between life and death.

This year, 198,100 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer and 31,500 will die from this terrible disease. But prostate cancer is only a small component of the men's health crisis: Men have a higher death rate than women do for every single one of the ten leading causes of death in this country. We're twice as likely to die of heart disease—the number one killer—and 40 percent more likely to die of cancer. Life expectancy has been longer for women than for men for several decades. Sadly, the largest part of the problem is that men do not take particularly good care of themselves. Only one-half of all men have received preventative health care services in the past year.

I am proud to work with the Men's Health Network to raise awareness regarding the need for regular health screenings, and it is an honor for me to host the annual men's health screenings on Capitol Hill. I urge my colleagues to visit the screenings, and to help me raise awareness about the fact that screenings like these can save lives.

## HONORING CORNELIA GRUMMAN OF THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 11, 2003*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Cornelia Grumman of the Chicago Tribune, winner of the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for editorial writing.

A native of Evanston, a resident of Chicago, a graduate of Duke, Cornelia Grumman has graced the Chicago Tribune for many years